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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/AGS AND INR/EU

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TAGS: PGOV EUN MARR KPAO IZ AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA EXTENDS PARTICIPATION IN EU'S IRAQ TRAINING
MISSION "EUJUST LEX"

¶1. (SBU) On June 22, Parliament's Steering committee
unanimously voted to extend Austrian participation in the
EU's integrated mission to support rule of law in Iraq
(EUJUST LEX) to December 2007. Parliament authorized the
government to deploy up to three Justice Ministry trainers
and up to two Interior Ministry trainers. Reporting to the
committee, Foreign Minister Plassnik stressed that Austria
was able to detail "highly qualified female experts from the
Justice and Interior ministries" to this mission - a fact
which "made her particularly proud." At the same time
Plassnik acknowledged to legislators that full details of
this mission still had to be worked out.

¶2. (SBU) According to Plassnik, the EU's rule of law mission
seeks to train up to 770 senior Iraqi officials in the area
of crime investigation (particularly criminal judges, police
officials, and prison guards). The training will take place
either in EU countries or "in the region," but not inside
Iraq, the Foreign Minister said. Through June 30, 495 Iraqi
officials had received training in 14 different courses.

¶3. (SBU) In a related development, Parliament approved
dispatching "up to two" Austrian Justice Ministry officials
to the Kosovo planning team. The EU has tasked this team
with preparing the ground for a rule-of-law mission in
Kosovo. The team should to be operational in the first half
of 2007. This initiative is a result of an UN request to
the EU to take over police and justice tasks from the UN's
UNMIK mission. Austria currently has up to 24 officials
participating in UNMIK.

Kilner, CDA